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BOERS ARE YET ACTIVE

Encouraged By Chinese Crisis.

BATTLE AND FOXCHASE

Gen. Roberts is Making Strenuous Efforts to Pacify the Orange Free State.

NEW YORK, July 19.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says: Lord Roberts reports from Pretoria a battle and a foxchase. The battle was fought on by General Botha, who attacked General Pole-Carew's position east of Pretoria while General Hamilton was moving northward and driving back Delarey's commando and General French was in the center, between the two wings. This was a vigorous counter stroke planned when Lord Roberts had succeeded in cutting off communications between the two Boer forces and was pushing back the weaker column from Waterval.

The British positions were gallantly defended by the Canadian and the New Zealand mounted Infantry and the Irish Fusiliers and a series of desperate attacks was repulsed.

The losses were balanced on each side, but included two brave Canadian officers, Lieutenants Borden and Birch, to whom Lord Roberts pays a fine tribute.

While Lord Roberts' army is virtually on the defensive within a few miles of Pretoria, he has sent Lord Methuen and General Smith-Dorrien from Krugersdorp to Rustenburg, to clear the western district, where recent successes have caused a renewal of the bad feeling against the British. The fox-hunt had begun in the Orange river colony, where Generals Hunter and Rundle were slowly but surely closing around General De Wet's commandos. The fox has suddenly started across country toward Lindley, with the mounted forces of Colonel Broadwood and Ridley in hot pursuit. The Boer force does not exceed 1,500 men, with five guns and the pursuers, if their horses are in good condition, may succeed in running it down. If this can be done, the pacification of the Orange river colony ought to be effected rapidly, as the remaining commandos cannot keep up the fight in the mountains if Van Reenah's pass and Harmsmith have been taken from Lady-smith, but the hare must first be caught.

The renewal of the Boers' activity is probably due to the effect of the crisis in China. Mr. Kruger and Mr. Steyn have perceived in the Far East a diversion in their favor which they previously expected either from European diplomacy or from American politics.

A BRITISH DISASTER.

LONDON, July 12.—Lord Roberts reports to the War Office under date of Pretoria, July 12th, as follows: "The enemy, having failed in their attack upon our right rear, as mentioned in my telegram of July 9th, made a determined attack upon our right flank yesterday, and, I regret to say, succeeded in capturing Nitral's Nek, which was garrisoned by a squadron of the Scots Greys with two guns of A Battery of the Royal Artillery and five companies of the Lincolnshire regiment. The enemy attacked in superior numbers at dawn, and, seizing the hills commanding the nek, brought a heavy gun fire to bear upon the small garrison.

"Nitral's Nek is about eighteen miles from here, near where the road crosses the Crocodile river. It was held by us in order to maintain road and telegraphic communication with Rustenburg. The fighting lasted, more or less, throughout the day, and immediately on receiving information this morning of the enemy's strength I dispatched reinforcements from here under Colonel Godfrey of the King's Own Scottish Borderers. Before, however, they reached the spot the garrison had been overpowered, the guns and a greater portion of the squadron of the Greys having been captured, owing to the horses being shot, also about ninety men of the Lincolnshire Regiment. A list of the casualties has not been received, but I fear they are heavy.

"Simultaneously an attack was made on our outposts near Durdepoort, north of the town, in which the Seventh Dragoons were engaged. The regiment was handled with considerable skill by Lieutenant-Colonel Low, and kept the enemy in check until they retired on their supports, and would probably have suffered but slight loss had not our troops mistaken some Boers in the bushes for our men.

"Smith-Dorrien had a small engagement with the enemy yesterday near Krugersdorp and inflicted heavy loss on them.

"Buller reports that the Boers who were destroying his line of railway near Paardekraal were driven off yesterday after a short action.

"Hart reports from Hendeburg that the surrendering of Boer arms and ammunition continues in that district."

NATIONAL POLITICS.

Patrick Egan for Bryan—Senator Lindsay Interviewed.

NEW YORK, July 19.—The following letter, given out for publication by Patrick Egan, formerly United States Minister, was received by him, he states, in answer to a telegram of congratulation sent by him to Mr. Bryan on the latter's nomination for the Presidency: "LINCOLN, Neb., July 14.—The Hon. Patrick Egan, New York. My Dear Mr. Egan:—Your telegram of congratulation was one of the first received and none were more highly appreciated. You were the first prominent Republican pointed out to me when I arrived in Lincoln, October 1, 1887, and you may remember that I responded to the toast, 'Our Friends, the Enemy,'

the evening when you and other Republicans were celebrating the Republican victory in 1888. I attended the banquet given you when you were departing for Chile. So much for reminiscences. Am glad that you like our platform. I think it is superb. It ought to appeal to the conscience and patriotism of the people.

"You are in a position to do important service for the party in the crisis which is upon us and I am delighted to know that your zeal is equal to your ability. Yours truly

W. J. BRYAN.

NEW YORK, July 19.—"No, I am taking no part in a third ticket movement this year," said Senator William Lindsay of Kentucky, in answer to a question put to him.

The Senator is reported to have supported Palmer and Buckner in 1896.

"What about the Chinese situation?"

"It is a very serious matter," he answered.

"Do you think it will have any bearing on the coming election?"

"I don't see why it should," was the Senator's answer. "If the Chinese Government is responsible for the killing of any American citizens, this country should hold it to a strict accountability. But if the country is overrun by mobs that the Chinese Government cannot control, then we must help suppress the rebellion. Catch as many of the ringleaders as possible and hang them."

"It is said you intend to locate in New York on the expiration of your term in the Senate."

"That is so," Senator Lindsay replied. "I have made definite arrangements to practice law here after March 4th next."

OREGON IN PORT.

She Arrives Safely at Kure and Will be Patched up.

WASHINGTON, July 19.—The Navy Department this morning received the following cablegram from Captain Wilde, commander of the Oregon, dated Kure, July 18:

"Secretary Navy, Washington: Oregon and Nashville arrived Kure 2 o'clock this afternoon. Expect to dock on the 19th. Shall I make permanent or temporary repairs? I would suggest putting on steel patches which can be done in a very short time and ship go back to her duty at Taku. To make permanent repairs it will require at least sixty days, probably more. Not a single man injured in any way. "WILDE."

To this dispatch Secretary Long at once replied as follows:

"Universal rejoicing over safety of Oregon. She is the Constitution of this generation. If safety of Oregon permits patch and go to Taku. I commend your preference for service. "LONG."

ASTOR RETRACTS.

Confesses Himself too Hasty in the Milne Case.

LONDON, July 19.—Mr. William Waldorf Astor has apparently reached the conclusion that he made a grave blunder when he publicly insulted Captain Sir Archibald Berkeley Milne. Today Mr. Astor publishes in his newspaper, the Pall Mall Gazette:

"We desire to express regret that a paragraph which appeared in this column on July 2 with regard to the presence of Sir Berkeley Milne at Mr. Astor's concert the preceding Thursday evening should have been published under a misapprehension of the exact circumstances. Explanations of a complete categorical kind, now show that Sir Berkeley Milne's presence was due to a misunderstanding that entirely absolves him from any intentional discourtesy."

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